

thirty in Cage B. The timetable of their subsequent development was as follows:—

DATE	CAGE A	CAGE B
27th Sept.		First larvae suspended prior to pupation
29th Sept.		First pupae formed
4th Oct.		Majority of pupae coloured up
5th Oct.		Two butterflies emerge
6th Oct.		Twenty-three emergences
7th Oct.	Many pupae colouring up	Remaining butterflies emerge
9th Oct.	Eight butterflies emerge	
10th Oct.	Main emergence	
11th Oct.	Remaining butterflies emerge	

At no time was either cage subject to artificial heat and the weather throughout the whole period was so wet and stormy that, after a few days in the open, it was necessary to put both cages under cover, first in an unheated room and latterly in a cold greenhouse with the door open. I am unable to account for the difference in emergence dates between the two cages which had exactly similar treatment throughout. Apart from one cripple in Cage B, all the butterflies were up to size and normal in appearance.

Six or seven days in the pupal state would be good going even in the tropics, but must be most unusual in this country and therefore seems worth recording.—Maj. Gen. C. G. LIPSCOMB, Crockerton House, Nr. Warminster, Wilts.

EREBIA SEROTINA DESCIMON & DE LESSE 1953: A POSSIBLE HYBRID. — I was very interested in Mr. N. D. Riley's recent note under the above heading (*Ent Rec.*, 87:266) concerning the suggestion that *Erebia serotina* could be a hybrid between *Erebia epiphron* and *Erebia pronoe*. I was, however, surprised to read that the reason this suggestion had previously been discounted was because of "the normally wide separation of their flight periods". Is there in fact normally such a wide separation? While odd specimens can appear at the end of July, the main emergence of *E. pronoe* f. *glottis* seems to start about the second week in August. *Epiphron* is on the wing later in the Pyrenees than in some other areas and I have found it still very much in evidence at this time. In fact in 1973 I found both species flying commonly together near Col du Tourmalet on 12th-15th August. Both sexes of both species were on the wing together during this period and they appeared equally fresh.

While the flight period may thus be less of a barrier to this hybrid theory than previously considered, there are other questions still unanswered, firstly the altitude. *Epiphron* in the Pyrenees is a high level species. I have not found it below 1,600 m. and it is usually higher—up to 2,500 m. *Pronoe*

generally occurs between 1,300 and 2,000 m. The locality where I found them together was at about 1,650 m. Col d'Aubisque, the locality mentioned by Mr. Riley, is 1,700 m. If *serotina* was a hybrid, one would thus expect to find it at this sort of altitude. However, the specimens of *serotina* from Cauterets were found between 800 and 1,000 m., substantially lower than one would expect to encounter either of their suggested parents. The other unexplained aspect of this theory is that *serotina* has so far only been found in one small area, while the joint range of *epiphron* and *pronoe* covers a substantial area of the central Pyrenees. — M. J. PERCEVAL, Holmesdale Cottage, Bonds Lane, Mid-Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 4HF.

IMMIGRANT AND OTHER LEPIDOPTERA IN WEST SUSSEX IN 1976. — During the summer of 1976 the 125 watt m.v. trap in my garden did not yield any notable captures. However, with the change from hot dry weather and winds mainly from the north, to wet windy weather from the southern sector, there was a dramatic change and I recorded the following interesting immigrant species at light here: *Acherontia atropos* (L.), September 22nd (1); *Agrius convolvuli* (L.), September 25th (2), October 3rd (1); *Mythimna vitellina* (Hbn.), September 28th (1), 30th (1), October 3rd (1); *M. albipuncta* (D. & S.), October 11th (1), 25th (1); *M. unipuncta* (Haw.), October 27th (1). Also at light were *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hbn.), October 14th (1); *Cyclophora puppillaria* (Hbn.), October 21st (1); *Eumichtis lichenea* (Hbn.), eight between 24th September and 23rd October; and *Vanessa atalanta* (L.), two in the m.v. trap, on 12th October — R. R. PICKERING, 123 Manor Way, Aldwick Bay Estate, Bognor Regis, Sussex.

THE OLDEST LEPIDOPTEROUS SPECIMEN IN AMERICA. — Most of the remaining insect specimens of James Petiver (ca. 1662-1718), the London apothecary and naturalist who helped to stimulate natural history collecting in various parts of the world, including North America, are preserved in the Entomological Department, British Museum (Natural History). They were conveyed to the original British Museum, along with Petiver's herbarium and voluminous manuscripts, by Sir Hans Sloane.

After suffering depredations by predators, Petiver began mounting insects for his cabinet in "sandwiches" of thin sheet mica, sealed tightly at the edges with strips of paper, upon which he recorded pertinent data. Most of these later specimens were then mounted in several large folio volumes, in the manner of the herbaria of the period, and so successful was Petiver's method that his is one of the oldest entomological collections to survive.

Excepting fossil insects, what appears to be the "oldest" surviving entomological specimen in North America is obviously an estray from Petiver's natural history cabinet. In my personal collection of historical specimens, it is mounted in a manner identical to almost all of the B.M. (N.H.)